1   WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2

3   1.   A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed

4   to:

5   display to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping

6   rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the

7   computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,

8   wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications

9   network.

10

11   2.   A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed

12   to:

13   calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for

14   each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a

15   particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

16   communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer

17   device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18

19   3.   A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed

20   to:

21   determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery schedule

22   for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a

23   particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

24   communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer

25   device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

26

27   4.   A computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each

28   user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,

29   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

1 using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the

2 global communications network, said computer system programmed to:

3   calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers a

4 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics

5 shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each

6 particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications

7 for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code

8 and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

9   generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

10 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

11

12   5.   The computer system of Claim 4, said computer system programmed to:

13   determine a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each of

14 the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

15

16   6.   The computer system of Claim 5 wherein the generated online comparison

17 display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering

18 the particular package.

19

20   7.   A computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a

21 plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of

22 carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications

23 network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an

24 individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer

25 system programmed to:

26   collect as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the

27 plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package

28 dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

29   collect from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary

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1   destination zip code; and

2   generate an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user

3   client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of

4   services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said

5   preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping

6   rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the

7   plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications

8   and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

9

10   8.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

11   computer system programmed to:

12   compare each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality of

13   services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the

14   particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a

15   plurality of carriers.

16

17   9.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 8, said shipping

18   management computer system further programmed to:

19   determine the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

20

21   10.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 9, said shipping

22   management computer system further programmed to:

23   generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

24

25   11.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report

26   of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

27

28   12.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report

29   of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible

1 announcement.

2

3   13.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report

4 comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer

5 the lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.

6

7   14.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report

8 comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the

9 lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.

10

11   15.   A shipping management computer system, said shipping management

12 computer system programmed to:

13   compare each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a

14 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for

15 shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by

16 each of a plurality of carriers.

17

18   16.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 15, said shipping

19 management computer system further programmed to:

20   determine the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

21

22   17.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 16, said shipping

23 management computer system further programmed to:

24   generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

25

26   18.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report

27 of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual

28 display.

29

1   19.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report

2   of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible

3   announcement.

4

5   20.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report

6   comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer

7   the earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.

8

9   21.   The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report

10   comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the

11   earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.

12

13   22.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

14   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

15   displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of

16   shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses

17   the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,

18   wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications

19   network.

20

21   23.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

22   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

23   calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for

24   each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a

25   particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

26   communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer

27   device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

28

29   24.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

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1   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

2   determining for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery

3   schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for

4   shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

5   communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer

6   device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

7

8   25.   A method using a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of

9   users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a

10   particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

11   communications network using a client computer device, each user having an individual

12   electronic connection to the global communications network, said method comprising

13   calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers

14   a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics

15   shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each

16   particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications

17   for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code

18   and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

19   generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display

20   monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

21

22   26.   The method of Claim 25, said method further comprising:

23   determining a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each

24   of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

25

26   27.   The method of Claim 26 wherein the generated online comparison display

27   further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering the

28   particular package.

29

1   28.   A method using a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping

2   each of a plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a

3   plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global

4   communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device

5   having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said

6   method comprising:

7   collecting as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the

8   plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package

9   dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

10   collecting from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary

11   destination zip code; and

12   generating an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user

13   client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of

14   services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said

15   preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping

16   rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the

17   plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications

18   and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

19

20   29.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

21   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

22   comparing each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality

23   of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the

24   particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a

25   plurality of carriers.

26

27   30.   The method of Claim 29, said method further comprising:

28   determining the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

29

1   31.   The method of Claim 30, said method further comprising:

2   generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

3

4   32.   The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that

5   offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

6

7   33.   The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that

8   offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

9

10   34.   The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a

11   graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of

12   the shipping rate.

13

14   35.   The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises an audible

15   announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of

16   the shipping rate.

17

18   36.   A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

19   parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

20   comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a

21   plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for

22   shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by

23   each of a plurality of carriers.

24

25   37.   The method of Claim 36, said method further comprising:

26   determining the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

27

28   38.   The method of Claim 37, said method further comprising:

29   generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery

1   schedule.

2

3   39.   The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that

4   offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

5

6   40.   The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that

7   offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

8

9   41.   The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a

10   graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule

11   and of the delivery schedule.

12

13   42.   The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises an audible

14   announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule

15   and of the delivery schedule.

16

17   43.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

18   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

19   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

20   a set of program instructions for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each

21   user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,

22   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

23   using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic connection

24   to the global communications network.

25

26   44.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

27   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

28   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

29   a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each

1   user's request a shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality

2   of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system

3   over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user

4   client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

5   communications network.

6

7   45.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

8   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

9   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10   a set of program instructions for determining for each of a plurality of users upon

11   each user's request a delivery schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a

12   plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer

13   system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each

14   user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global

15   communications network.

16

17   46.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

18   execution by a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's

19   request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,

20   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

21   using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the

22   global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

23   a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered

24   by each of a plurality of carriers a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according

25   to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set

26   of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set

27   of parcel specifications for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to

28   an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

29   a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the

1   calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of

2   the particular user.

3

4   47.   The computer program product of Claim 46, said computer program product

5   further comprising:

6   a set of program instructions for determining a delivery schedule for each of the

7   plurality of services offered by each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular

8   parcel .

9

10   48.   The computer program product of Claim 47 wherein the generated online

11   comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for

12   delivering the particular package.

13

14   49.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

15   execution by a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality

16   of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers,

17   wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

18   using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual

19   electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer program product

20   comprising:

21   a set of program instructions for collecting as parcel specifications for a particular

22   parcel a user input from one of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at

23   least one of: a package type, package dimensions, package weight, and a value of the

24   particular parcel;

25   a set of program instructions for collecting from the particular user a user input of an

26   origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code; and

27   a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display to a display

28   monitor configured with the user client computer device of the particular user a preview of

29   shipping rates for a plurality of services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the

1   particular parcel wherein said preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of

2   parcel characteristics shipping rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set

3   of pricing rules for each of the plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as

4   applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary

5   destination zip code.

6

7   50.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

8   execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

9   any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10   a set of program instructions for comparing each shipping rate for shipping a

11   particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers

12   with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality

13   of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.

14

15   51.   The computer program product of Claim 50, said computer program product

16   further comprising:

17   a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the

18   lowest shipping rate.

19

20   52.   The computer program product of Claim 51, said computer program product

21   further comprising:

22   a set of program instructions for generating a report of the service and the carrier that

23   offer the lowest shipping rate.

24

25   53.   The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service

26   and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

27

28   54.   The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service

29   and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

1

2   55.   The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises a

3 visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest

4 shipping rate and of the shipping rate.

5

6   56.   The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises an

7 audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping

8 rate and of the shipping rate.

9

10   57.   A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for

11 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by

12 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

13   a set of program instructions for comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a

14 particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers

15 with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the

16 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.

17

18   58.   The computer program product of Claim 57, said computer program product

19 further comprising:

20   a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the

21 earliest delivery schedule.

22

23   59.   The computer program product of Claim 58, said computer program product

24 further comprising:

25   generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery

26 schedule.

27

28   60.   The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service

29 and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

1

2   61.   The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service

3 and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

4

5   62.   The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises a

6 visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest

7 delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.

8

9   63.   The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises an

10 audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery

11 schedule and of the delivery schedule.

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